

Appl. No.: 10/773,489
Amdt. dated 12/21/2005
Reply to Office action of October 20, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Official Action of October 20, 2005, Claims 14 and 15 were allowed, and dependent Claims 3-4 and 7-13 were held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present Amendment is in compliance with the above determination, with the allowed dependent Claims 3 and 7 being incorporated in base Claims 1 and 5 respectively.

There being no other issues, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

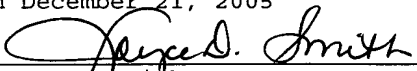


Charles B. Elderkin
Registration No. 24,357

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
#4776088v1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 21, 2005


Joyce D. Smith